

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /054 W
-----076042 221019Z /11

R 220825Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4821
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, PEPR, TH, CH, UR
SUBJECT: THAILAND SELECTS MILITARY ATTACHES FOR PEKING AND MOSCOW

REF: BANGKOK 13087 (NOTAL)

1. RE REFTEL, PARA 4, ON MAY 21, 1978, THREE BANGKOK DAILIES, CHING HUA, SHIH CHIEN AND BANGKOK POST, CARRIED ARTICLES ATTRIBUTED TO RELIABLE AND INFORMED SOURCES THAT THAILAND HAD PROPOSED THE APPOINTMENTS OF COLONEL WICHIAN SANGKHAPRAIWONG AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO PEKING AND COLONEL WANCHAI CHITCHAMNONG AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO MOSCOW. THE SOURCE SAID THE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE OFFICIALY ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSALS BY THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

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2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, COLONEL WICHIAN IS ATTACHED TO THE SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO CHINA. HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT WAS AS ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE TO KOREA. COLONEL WANCHAI IS ALSO CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. HE WAS THAI MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE UNITED STATES, 1973-76.

3. COMMENT: THE SIMULTANEOUS APPOINTMENT OF THE TWO ATTACHES IS IN KEEPING WITH PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK'S STATED POLICY OF BALANCED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT EITHER COMMUNIST COUNTRY WILL DECLINE TO ACCEPT THE THAI ATTACHE APPOINTED BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAVE THEM OPEN TO CRITICISM FROM THE PRESS OF BOTH THE OTHER POWER AND THAILAND. WILL FORWARD ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC AND PERSONALITY DATA WHEN APPOINTMENTS ARE CONFIRMED.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ATTACHES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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